

## Useful Contacts

All Area Codes are 406

### ***Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks***

- *Region 6 Headquarters:* 228-3700
- *Havre Area Office:* 265-6177

### ***Bureau of Land Management***

- *Malta Field Office:* 654-5100
- *Glasgow Field Station:* 228-3750
- *Havre Field Station:* 265-5891

### ***Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation***

- *Northeastern Land Office:* 538-7789
- *Glasgow Unit Office:* 228-2430
- *Havre Unit Office:* 265-5236

### ***U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service***

- *CMR Wildlife Refuge:* 538-8706
- *Bowdoin NWR:* 654-2863

### ***Indian Reservations***

- *Fort Belknap:* 353-4801
- *Fort Peck:* 768-5155
- *Rocky Boys:* 395-4476

### ***Area Chambers of Commerce***

- *Malta:* 654-1776
- *Glasgow:* 228-2222
- *Chinook:* 357-2100
- *Havre:* 265-4383
- *Zortman:* 673-3162 (*Buckhorn Cabins*)  
and 673-3160 (*Zortman Motel*)

For local lodging options, amenities and lists of landowners who allow recreational prairie dog shooting, contact chambers of commerce listed above.

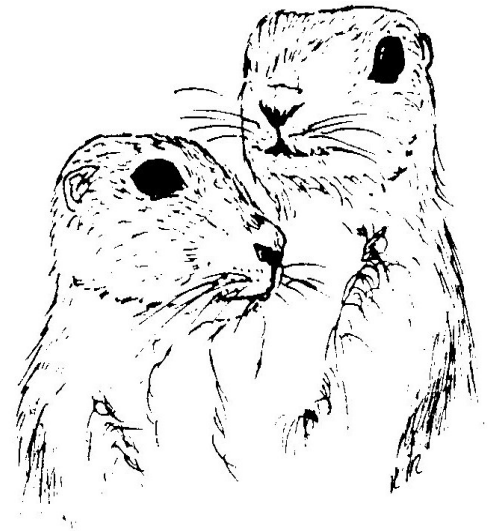
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
RR1—4210  
GLASGOW, MT 59230

# Prairie Dogs AND Recreational Shooting

In Northeast Montana

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RESTRICTIONS,  
CONTACT INFORMATION,  
ADVICE



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
RR1—4210 Glasgow, MT 59230

Phone: (406) 228-3700

Web: [www.fwp.state.mt.us/  
wildthings/prairiedogs.asp](http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/wildthings/prairiedogs.asp)



# Prairie Dog Shooting

## Restrictions, Closed Areas and General Regulations

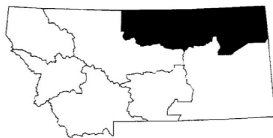
While recreational shooters have targeted prairie dogs for over a century in Montana, the activity is no longer as simple as locating a prairie dog town, adjusting for windage and shooting.

You need to know land-ownership details, how to identify protected animals that are often in close proximity to dog towns, and seasonal or area restrictions. This brochure is designed to help you understand basic rules and encourage you to seek more detailed information from a wide range of sources in north-central and north-east Montana.

### Restrictions

Black-tailed prairie dogs, defined as a “non-game species in need of management,” are not considered game animals in Montana, so you don’t need a special hunting license to shoot them. There are no limits or size restrictions. However, be aware of closures, from March 1 through May 31 on all federal land, and year-round on BLM land within the “40 Complex” and Pea Ridge in south Phillips County. The C.M. Russell Wildlife Refuge and federal Waterfowl Production Areas are closed year-round. Indian reservations have their own rules governing prairie dog shooting. For complete state restrictions, go online to [www.fwp.state.mt.us/wildthings/prairiedogs.asp](http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/wildthings/prairiedogs.asp) and click on “Biennial Rule” and “Black-Tailed Prairie Dogs Closure”.

### Region 6



*This information applies to FWP's Region 6, which includes most of northeastern Montana*

## Shooting on Private Land

The closures do not apply to private or state school-trust lands. Many ranchers welcome prairie dog shooters, but if you want to shoot or hunt on private land, regardless of species, state law requires you to **first** get permission from the landowner.

Remember, you’re a visitor here, and both private landowners and public-land managers expect you to clean up litter (including spent cartridge cases) and to keep your vehicle on approved roads or trails. The BLM, CMR and state DNRC prohibit traveling off of established roads. Keep in mind that many roads in this part of Montana are impassable in wet weather. Please make sure your vehicle is free of weeds (check grills, suspension and bumpers) before traveling to Region 6.

## Know Your Location

Maps showing locations of dog towns are not widely available. Many prairie dog towns are located on a mix of private and public ground, and restrictions can differ by location. Because it can be hard to identify ownership in the field, it’s a good idea to get detailed maps of the area you plan to visit. The best source of ownership maps is the Bureau of Land Management. Go online to [www.mt.blm.gov/](http://www.mt.blm.gov/) for an index of Montana maps or call (406) 896-5000. Pick up copies of recreation maps, which detail surface ownership, for \$4 at the following BLM offices:

**Malta Field Office:** 501 S. 2nd St. E. (406) 654-5100

**Glasgow Field Station:** Hwy. 2 West (406) 228-3750

**Havre Field Station:** 714 2nd St. W. (406) 265-5891

*The burrowing owl, a protected species, may be present on some Region 6 prairie dog towns. It is a federal crime to harm an owl or other protected species.*



## Beware Protected Critters

Prairie dogs are a critical component of the prairie ecosystem, and other species of animals depend on prairie dog towns for food and shelter. Still other animals share the landscape. Most are off-limits to shooting. Protected wildlife that may be present on or near prairie dog towns include endangered black-footed ferrets, mountain plovers, ferruginous hawks and burrowing owls.

Game animals, which include many prairie birds and mammals, can only be harvested in season and in accordance with current Montana hunting regulations. Visit [www.fwp.state.mt.us](http://www.fwp.state.mt.us) for details.

If you see or suspect a poaching incident, call Montana’s toll-free wildlife crime hotline: **1-800-TIP-MONT**. In many cases, you may be the only witness to a crime and prosecution depends on you.

## Other Considerations...

**Be safe!** Bullets can fly a long distance in this country. Be sure no roads, buildings or other structures are in the background. Humans, including ranchers and researchers, may be present on or near prairie dog towns.

**Be healthy!** Prairie dogs are susceptible to sylvatic plague, and most are hosts to fleas. Don’t handle prairie dogs.

**Be courteous!** Leave all gates in the manner you found them. Don’t trespass, and pick up your litter.

**Be legal!** You need a special State Lands Recreational Use License to recreate on state school-trust property (generally designated in blue on BLM maps).

**International visitors** must purchase a state Conservation License in order to bring firearms across the international border. Call U.S. Customs Service (406-895-2664 in NE Montana) or go online to [www.atf.treas.gov](http://www.atf.treas.gov) for required documents.